

travel there and spread the good word of Jesus Christ.

He has been ministering to the impoverished people of Myanmar and the Yunnan province of China for over a decade. In these last 3 years, he helped build and staff 16 schools in northern Myanmar.

For years, Pastor John regularly crossed the border on his small motorcycle loaded with food and medicine, without incident. For some reason, this time, he was arrested and charged as a smuggler.

Since his arrest, Chinese officials have raided and threatened a number of Christian churches in several provinces. I urge the State Department to seek Pastor John's immediate release from Chinese custody and to stop further raids before other innocent individuals become casualties of aggressive religious persecution.

CONGRATULATING FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HORNETS

(Mr. BROWN of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairmont Heights Hornets for winning their first State basketball championship in 36 years.

After trailing by as much as 9 points, the Hornets, under the leadership of Coach Chuck Henry, won the 1A boys State title by a score of 65-52. The team of young scholars was resilient, played hard, and never panicked.

Credit is due to Coach Henry, who has taken his team to the State championship after only 2 years on the job. He is a role model, had high expectations for his students, and constantly pushed them to play better on the court and achieve more in the classroom. Throughout the season, Coach Henry never lost faith in his young team.

Mr. Speaker, the students on the winning Fairmont Heights team may not go on to play in the NCAA or the NBA, but the memories of this moment, the bonds they have built, and the lessons they have developed will stay with them for a lifetime.

Fairmont Heights High School has a proud legacy. When it opened its doors in 1950, it was only one of two high schools in the State of Maryland for African Americans. Now, nearly 70 years later, the school has made history again. This team has made Prince George's County and the entire Fourth Congressional District very proud.

Go, Hornets.

PROTECTING OUR BORDER

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the past several days, I had my first-ever tour

of our southwest border. During my visit, I met with Border Patrol agents in New Mexico and Texas, as well as ranchers and business leaders on the border.

Border security was a significant issue in the last election, as Americans are concerned about the flow of illegal narcotics and aliens across the border. Although gaps in security remain, I saw an impressive array of assets, including drones and manned aircraft, walls, cameras, and other materiel.

More impressive, however, are the men and women who work for Customs and Border Protection, who, at no small risk to themselves, work to keep America secure. They are very encouraged lately as they see policy changes coming that will allow them to enforce our laws. Mr. Speaker, these individuals are literally on the front line defending our Nation and communities, and I thank them for their service.

I understand that there are job opportunities with Border Patrol. For those seeking a public service career doing something bigger than themselves, that is something to consider.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, over 50 years ago, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act, landmark legislation which requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work.

Unfortunately, equal pay for equal work has not become a reality. In fact, women are paid between 79 and 80 cents for every dollar that men are paid for doing the exact same job. In fact, it takes women until tomorrow, April 4, to earn what men were paid in the previous year.

For women of color, the gap is even wider. In 2015, African-American women made 65 cents for every dollar earned by their White male counterparts. For Hispanic women, it is even worse. They earn 58 cents for every dollar earned by their White male counterparts.

Women pay a huge price because of the wage gap. Today, families rely increasingly on women's wages to make ends meet; and with less take-home pay, women have less money to cover the everyday needs of their family.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to right the wrong. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and send it to the President's desk for signature.

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END COMMERCIAL WHALING

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, our great ally Australia has long been the lead-

ing voice in the world to end commercial whaling. I rise to let them know that they are not alone and to announce the filing of bipartisan legislation to support an end to commercial whaling.

Another of our valued allies, Japan, unfortunately continues this depraved practice. In fact, the Japanese whaling fleet has just returned home, having killed 333 Antarctic minke whales.

Despite the global ban on commercial whaling, Japan continues the slaughter on the seas under a thinly veiled claim of research. Research into whales is important, but all available science shows that this research can be conducted with nonlethal testing and biopsies.

The Japan whale hunt isn't about research. It is about whale meat. In 2012, a Japanese minister even commented that the minke whale offers great flavor and aroma as sashimi. I think that is disgusting.

The Japanese whalers shoot the world's majestic mammals with exploding harpoons and electric lances. Death can often take hours.

Commercial and fake research hunting of whales must end. I thank Australia for its leadership. I ask Japan to be honest with the world and end this barbaric practice.

JOBS SHOULD BE JOB ONE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the consensus for this Friday's Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report is that it will show the economy added about 178,000 new private sector jobs in March. That is a good number, though not as good as the March numbers in recent years.

As *The New York Times* put it: "Growth in the first 3 months of the Trump administration is looking much the way it did" in the growth under President Obama.

But because of the current administration's inaction on vital economic issues, like infrastructure spending, right now about one in three market experts now think that a near-term stock market correction may be in the cards.

Instead of doing the things we need to do to rev up the economy, this body has been spending time trying to make it harder for women to access contraceptives, gutting our right to privacy on the internet, and trying to take health care away from millions of Americans. That is no way, Mr. Speaker, to create jobs.

How about we do what the President said he wanted to do? Let's make the investments that we need now that will stimulate the creation of good jobs—good-paying jobs for Americans. That should be job number one for this Congress.